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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Programme 38. Public information

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify parts of the narrative of programme 38, Public information, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions do not reflect a fundamental change in the mandate of the programme. Rather, they reflect organizational changes arising from the reorganization of the Secretariat. As part of this reorganization, the responsibility for the dissemination of news and political analyses to the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization has been transferred from the former

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* After adoption by the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

Office for Research and the Collection of Information to the Department of Public Information. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information has been designated as Chairman of the Publications Board. Accordingly responsibility for providing services for the Publications Board and its working committee has also been assigned to the Department of Public Information and is now included under the programme.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 38.1 to 38.3, 38.6, 38.15 and 38.16 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

Paragraph 38.1

Replace "the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution 44/50 of 8 December 1989" with "the most recent of which are General Assembly resolution 46/73 of 11 December 1991, on questions relating to information, and General Assembly resolution 46/185 B, section VI, of 20 December 1991, on publications policy. In addition, in support of the role of the Secretary-General as envisaged in Article 99 of the Charter and in accordance with the statement adopted by the Security Council at its first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992, and the reorganization of the Secretariat of March 1992, the programme provides for the dissemination of news and political analyses to the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization."

Paragraph 38.2

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"In view of the increasing role of the United Nations in a changing world, information activities in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations will give substance to the forward-looking vision that the Organization offers."

Insert a new paragraph 38.3 as follows and renumber the succeeding paragraphs accordingly:

"The redeployment of the News Distribution Section of the former Office of Research and the Collection of Information to the Department of Public Information has added a new dimension to the work of the Department, namely, the delivery of timely and comprehensive information regarding potential threats to peace and security. In addition the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information has been appointed Chairman of the Publications Board, comprising representatives of author departments and processing services, which considers policies governing the preparation, production, distribution and sale of United Nations documents and monitors their implementation. It also coordinates planning and supervises the execution of the

publications programme and issues directives and regulations on behalf of the Secretary-General on publication policies and practices."

Paragraph 38.3 (new paragraph 38.4)

Add new subparagraphs (e) and (f) as follows:

"(e) Complementing the Organization's limited technological capabilities and financial resources to reach its audiences directly, with an active effort to promote the United Nations message through redisseminators, especially media organizations worldwide, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions;

"(f) The need to develop a dynamic and flexible approach to build continuing understanding and support for major issues before the Organization."

Paragraph 38.6 (new paragraph 38.7)

Replace subparagraph (c) with the following:

"Maintaining a global network of information centres, services and other field offices having an information component, with an adequate regional and linguistic balance, in order to ensure the highest possible local presence for United Nations activities, purposes and programmes, and to stimulate public awareness about the United Nations tasks and responsibilities, the collection of information from public sources related to the Organization's work, particularly in areas of current interest to the Organization".

Add new subparagraphs (g) and (h) as follows:

"(g) Enhancing the role of the Publications Board, by adopting policies that strengthen coordination of publication activities and support evaluation processes for publications produced by the Secretariat, including public information materials with the aim to better target readerships, avoid overlap or duplication, and improve the timeliness, quality and usefulness of publications;

"(h) Providing the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization with timely and comprehensive information regarding potential threats to peace and security."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 2: INFORMATION SERVICES

Paragraph 38.15 (new paragraph 38.16)

After the last sentence add:

"The subprogramme is also aimed at ensuring that the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization are kept informed in a comprehensive and timely manner of international situations and trends in order to facilitate the discharge of their responsibilities."

Paragraph 38.16 (new paragraph 38.17)

Add new subparagraphs (m) to (q) as follows:

"(m) Collect, consolidate and arrange timely distribution of political information on developments related to peace and security for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

"(n) Prepare and distribute daily political information based on wire services and newspapers from various parts of the world, as well as news summaries received from information centres;

"(o) Prepare for the Secretary-General, at least once a week, as well as on an ad hoc basis, special briefing books containing selected reports, including reviews of editorial opinion, as relevant;

"(p) Provide to the Secretary-General and senior officials on an ongoing ad hoc basis reports of breaking news developments;

"(q) Analyse media coverage of the Secretary-General and the United Nations for use by the Secretary-General."